

REMARKS

Claims 1-4, 6-41, and 43-47 are now pending in this application. We thank the Examiner for the indication of allowability of claims 5-22, 33- 38, and 42-45. Claims 1 and 26 have been rewritten to incorporate the limitations of the allowable claims 5 and 42, respectively. Similar amendments have been made to independent claims 46 and 47. By virtue of these amendments, claims 5 and 42 have been rendered redundant and thus have been cancelled. Claim 6 has been amended to correct its dependency, while claim 43 has been amended to correct for antecedents due to the amendment to claim 26.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. 102

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-4, 23-32, 39-41, and 46 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Ishikawa et al. In response, the Applicant has amended independent claims 1 and 26 to incorporate the limitations of the allowable claims 5 and 42, respectively. Similar amendment has been made to independent claim 46. Due to these amendments, the Examiner's rejections under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) have been rendered moot. Accordingly, the Applicant requests withdrawal of these rejections.

Claims 2-4, 23-32, and 39-41 depend directly or indirectly from independent claims 1 and 26. Therefore, the Applicant submits that claims are compliant with 35 U.S.C. 102(b) and hence requests withdrawal of rejections on the basis thereof.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. 103

The Examiner has rejected claim 47 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ishikawa et al. in view of Takahara et al. In response, the Applicant has amended claim 47 to include the limitation recited in allowable claim 5. Therefore, the Applicant submits that amended claim 47 is patentable over Ishikawa et al. in view of Takahara. Withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) is courteously solicited.

Objections to claims 5-22, 33-38, and 42-45

By virtue of amendments to claims 1 and 26, claims 5 and 42 have been rendered redundant. Therefore, claims 5 and 42 have been cancelled. Claims 6-22, 33-38, and 43 to 45 now depend on allowable base claims. Hence, the Applicant requests the Examiner to withdraw the objections to these claims.

The Applicant submits that the application is now in condition for allowance, and favorable action to that end is respectfully requested.

No fee is believed due for this submission. However, Applicant authorizes the Commissioner to debit any required fee from Deposit Account No. 501593, in the name of Borden Ladner Gervais LLP. The Commissioner is further authorized to debit any additional amount required, and to credit any overpayment to the above-noted deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

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